

**House File 2335 - Introduced**

HOUSE FILE 2335  
BY HEATON

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act creating a mental health workforce loan repayment  
2 program, providing for contingent implementation, and  
3 providing for a repeal.  
4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 135.175, subsection 1, paragraph a, Code  
2 Supplement 2009, is amended to read as follows:

3 a. A health care workforce support initiative is established  
4 to provide for the coordination and support of various efforts  
5 to address the health care workforce shortage in this state.  
6 This initiative shall include the medical residency training  
7 state matching grants program created in section 135.176,  
8 the health care professional and nursing workforce shortage  
9 initiative created in sections 261.128 and 261.129, the safety  
10 net provider recruitment and retention initiatives program  
11 created in section 135.153A, health care workforce shortage  
12 national initiatives, ~~and~~ the physician assistant mental health  
13 fellowship program created in section 135.177, and the mental  
14 health workforce loan repayment program created in section  
15 135.178.

16 Sec. 2. Section 135.175, subsection 5, Code Supplement  
17 2009, is amended by adding the following new paragraph:

18 NEW PARAGRAPH. f. *The mental health workforce loan repayment*  
19 *program account.* The mental health workforce loan repayment  
20 program account shall be under the control of the department  
21 and the moneys in the account shall be used for the purposes of  
22 the mental health workforce loan repayment program as specified  
23 in section 135.178. Moneys in the account shall consist of  
24 moneys appropriated or allocated for deposit in or received  
25 by the fund or the account and specifically dedicated to the  
26 mental health workforce loan repayment program or account for  
27 the purposes of such account.

28 Sec. 3. Section 135.175, subsection 6, paragraph a, Code  
29 Supplement 2009, is amended to read as follows:

30 a. Moneys in the fund and the accounts in the fund shall  
31 only be appropriated in a manner consistent with the principles  
32 specified and the strategic plan developed pursuant to sections  
33 135.163 and 135.164 to support the medical residency training  
34 state matching grants program, the health care professional  
35 incentive payment program, the nurse educator incentive

1 payment and nursing faculty fellowship programs, the safety net  
2 recruitment and retention initiatives program, for national  
3 health care workforce shortage initiatives, for the physician  
4 assistant mental health fellowship program, for the mental  
5 health workforce loan repayment program, and to provide funding  
6 for state health care workforce shortage programs as provided  
7 in this section.

8 Sec. 4. NEW SECTION. 135.178 **Mental health workforce loan**  
9 **repayment program — repeal.**

10 1. The department, in cooperation with the college student  
11 aid commission, shall establish a mental health workforce  
12 loan repayment program in accordance with this section.

13 Funding for the program may be provided through the health  
14 care workforce shortage fund or the mental health workforce  
15 loan repayment program account created in section 135.175.

16 The purpose of the program is to increase the number of  
17 physicians, physician assistants, and advanced registered  
18 nurse practitioners providing mental health services in mental  
19 health professional shortage areas as defined in section  
20 135.80. Under the program, loan repayment may be made to a  
21 recipient for educational expenses incurred while completing  
22 an accredited health education program directly related to  
23 obtaining credentials necessary to provide mental health  
24 services in accordance with the individual's profession.

25 2. The department, in cooperation with the college student  
26 aid commission, shall adopt rules relating to the establishment  
27 and administration of the mental health workforce loan  
28 repayment program. Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection  
29 shall provide, at a minimum, for all of the following:

30 a. Determination of eligibility requirements and  
31 qualifications of an applicant to receive loan repayment under  
32 the program, including but not limited to years of obligated  
33 service, clinical practice requirements, and residency  
34 requirements. One year of obligated service shall be provided  
35 by the applicant in exchange for each year of loan repayment,

1 unless federal requirements otherwise require. Loan repayment  
2 under the program shall not be approved for a health provider  
3 whose license or certification is restricted by a medical  
4 regulatory authority of any jurisdiction of the United States,  
5 other nations, or territories.

6 *b.* Identification of mental health professional shortage  
7 areas as defined in section 135.80 in the state and  
8 prioritization of such areas according to need.

9 *c.* Determination of the amount and duration of the loan  
10 repayment an applicant may receive, giving consideration to the  
11 availability of funds under the program, and the applicant's  
12 outstanding educational loans and professional credentials.

13 *d.* Determination of the conditions of loan repayment  
14 applicable to an applicant.

15 *e.* Enforcement of the state's rights under a loan repayment  
16 program contract, including the commencement of any court  
17 action.

18 *f.* Cancellation of a loan repayment program contract for  
19 reasonable cause.

20 3. The department may enter into an agreement under  
21 chapter 28E with the college student aid commission for the  
22 administration of this program.

23 4. This section is repealed June 30, 2014.

24 Sec. 5. IMPLEMENTATION. This Act shall be implemented only  
25 to the extent funding is available.

26 EXPLANATION

27 This bill creates a mental health workforce loan repayment  
28 program as part of the health care workforce support  
29 initiative, and also creates an account for the program within  
30 the health care workforce shortage fund.

31 The bill directs the department of public health (DPH),  
32 in cooperation with the college student aid commission,  
33 to establish the program. Funding for the program may be  
34 provided through the health care workforce shortage fund or  
35 the mental health workforce loan repayment program account.

1 The purpose of the program is to increase the number of  
2 physicians, physician assistants, and advanced registered nurse  
3 practitioners providing mental health services in federally  
4 designated mental health workforce shortage areas. Under  
5 the program, loan repayment may be made to a recipient for  
6 educational expenses incurred while completing an accredited  
7 health education program directly related to obtaining  
8 credentials necessary to provide mental health services.

9 DPH is directed, in cooperation with the college student  
10 aid commission, to adopt rules relating to the establishment  
11 and administration of the program, including eligibility  
12 requirements and qualifications of an applicant to receive loan  
13 repayment, including but not limited to years of obligated  
14 service, clinical practice requirements, and residency  
15 requirements; identification of federally designated mental  
16 health shortage areas of the state and prioritization of  
17 such areas according to need; determination of the amount  
18 and duration of the loan repayment an applicant may receive;  
19 determination of the conditions of loan repayment applicable  
20 to an applicant; enforcement of the state's rights under a  
21 loan repayment program contract; and cancellation of a loan  
22 repayment program contract for reasonable cause. DPH may enter  
23 into an agreement under Code chapter 28E with the college  
24 student aid commission for the administration of this program.  
25 Implementation of the program is contingent on the extent of  
26 available funding, and the program is repealed June 30, 2014.